

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

February 2014 – Week 2

Air Date: February 9 – February 15 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE BIG FREEZE

FEBRUARY 1899 AND THE SNOW KING ARRIVES.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

FEBRUARY 12, 1899. TULIA. THE NATION IS GRIPPED BY COLD.

IN TEXAS, IT'S ALREADY BELOW FREEZING WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP AGAIN, PLUNGING MOST OF THE STATE BELOW ZERO. GALVESTON BAY FREEZES AND BOYS GO ICE-SKATING ON THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER. ON THE COAST, HUNDREDS OF FISH WASH ASHORE – NUMBED BY THE COLD.

IN TULIA, THE MERCURY REGISTERS TWENTY-THREE BELOW – THE COLDEST IN TEXAS HISTORY.

KNOWN AS THE GREAT BLIZZARD OR THE SNOW KING, THE BIG FREEZE OF 1899 CAUSED THE DEATH OF OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE NATIONWIDE. IN TEXAS, 40,000 CATTLE PERISHED. MANY RECORD LOWS SET DURING THE FREEZE STILL STAND.

THE BIG FREEZE HIT TEXAS 115 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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“Arctic Cold Stiffens Tulia,” *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/day-by-day/31158>), accessed January 30, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Donald R. Abbe and John Leffler, "SWISHER COUNTY," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcs18>), accessed January 30, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Richard Travis, “History of Freezes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Part II 1895-1962,” (<http://www.raingardens.com/psst/articles/artic02.htm>), accessed January 30, 2014. Published in Palm Society of South Texas quarterly bulletin – Spring 1997.

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